

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7396

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01060

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV REQUEST FOR WEST BERLIN LANDING
RIGHTS

REF: BONN 833

1. AT A JANUARY 20 MEETING WITH THE CAA'S, YUGOSLAV
EMBASSY OFFICERS (VRANES AND DJENADIC) INDICATED THEIR
GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN HAVING YUGOSLAV AIR
TRANSPORT (JAT) ESTABLISH A SCHEDULED SERVICE TO WEST
BERLIN. VRANES REFERRED TO PREVIOUS APPROACHES ON THE
SUBJECT TO THE ALLIED EMBASSIES HERE (AUGUST 1972,
JANUARY AND JULY 1973) AND POINTED OUT THAT RECENT
ALLIED ACTION GRANTING LANDING RIGHTS TO KLM AND THY
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HAD PROMPTED THE GOY TO AGAIN SEEK AUTHORITY TO OPERATE

AN AIR SERVICE TO WEST BERLIN. IN SUPPORT OF A JAT SERVICE, VRANES NOTED THAT THERE WERE 30,000 YUGOSLAV GUEST WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES RESIDENT IN BERLIN WHO VISITED THEIR HOMES FREQUENTLY. ADDITIONALLY, JAT WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT THE MARKET PROVIDED BY THE GROWING NUMBERS OF BERLINERS TRAVELING TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR VACATIONS AND BUSINESS. ALTHOUGH JAT ALREADY HAD A SCHEDULED SERVICE TO SCHOENEFELD, EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT THE YUGOSLAV GUEST WORKERS WERE EXPERIENCING DELAYS AND CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE IN CROSSING INTO EAST BERLIN TO MEET JAT FLIGHTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY THE CAA'S, VRANES SAID THAT THE GOY HAD AS YET NOT RPT NOT APPROACHED THE GDR CONCERNING OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS. THE YUGOSLAVS WERE, HOWEVER, CONFIDENT THAT THEIR "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EAST GERMANS" WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS. BEFORE RAISING THIS ASPECT OF THE QUESTION, THE GOY WISHED FIRST TO "CLARIFY" THE QUESTION OF WEST BERLIN OPERATING AUTHORITY. AFTER ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION VRANES AND DIENADIC ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANY CONCRETE INDICATION THAT THE GDR WOULD BE INCLINED TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO JAT. THEY CONCLUDED THEIR PRESENTATION BY SAYING THE GOY WOULD SETTLE FOR THE SAME ARRANGEMENT GIVEN TO OTHER NON-THREE POWER AIRLINES, I.E., WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS FOR A LIMITED PERIOD DURING WHICH OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS WOULD BE SOUGHT.

3. EMB AND BRITISH CAA'S, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BONN GROUP AGREED LINE, INDICATED THAT THE YUGOSLAV APPROACH WOULD BE REPORTED TO CAPITALS FOR CONSIDERATION. FRENCH CAA LASSUS SAID THAT THE GOF HAD TAKEN A POSITIVE VIEW OF EARLIER YUGOSLAV EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS AND CONTINUED TO FAVOR THE GRANTING OF SUCH RIGHTS. LASSUS ADDED THAT FROM THE FRENCH STANDPOINT, IT WOULD NOW BE USEFUL FOR THE GOY TO SEND A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE ALLIED EMBASSIES FORMALLY REQUESTING THE GRANTING OF WEST BER-
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LIN RIGHTS FOR A JAT SCHEDULED SERVICE.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE EARLIER INDICATIONS REPORTED REFTTEL, THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE YUGOSLAV PRESENTATION WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT JAT WAS ANY CLOSER TO OBTAINING GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS THAN ANY OF THE OTHER CONTENDERS. WE BELIEVE JAT CASE MERITS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND WOULD BE INCLINED TO FAVOR THE YUGOSLAV

REQUEST IN TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS. WE WOULD, HOWEVER,
EXPECT THE BRITISH TO ADOPT A STRONGLY NEGATIVE POSITION
AS IN PREVIOUS CASES PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY WILL NOT
HAVE TO CONFRONT THE PRESSURES WHICH COULD DEVELOP IF
THE YUGOSLAVS ACTUALLY HAD OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS IN
HAND. THE BRITISH CAA HAS THUS FAR LIMITED HIS COMMENTS
TO US TO EXPRESSIONS OF SOME DISMAY AT THE IMMEDIATE
POSITIVE RESPONSE GIVEN BY THE FRENCH.
HILLENBRAND

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